I have heard it stated, paradoxically, that a bad review of a book may increase its sales. One wonders on that basis whether the three titles below sold out. Thus, of *A Dictionary of Entomology* (1976), by A. W. Leftwich, one reviewer wrote: "On no account buy this book. Written evidently by a non-entomologist, it is out of date in its nomenclature and system of identification and is riddled through and through with inaccuracy. Most of what you have a right to expect in a dictionary of entomology is absent". Dr. Kettlewell said of the photographs in L. Hugh Newman's *British Moths and Their Haunts* (1950): "The foreword, by Mr. Peter Scott, states that each moth is shown 'opposite to the type of country in which it lives.' Surely this should read 'in country opposite to the type in which it (normally) lives'! There might then be fewer corrections!" And another reviewer uttered these comments on C. B. Antram's *The Collecting and Preservation of Butterflies and Moths* (1951): "This farrago of inaccurate information, bad advice and worse grammar should never have been published".

There are relatively few books on lepidopterous eggs, but at the A.E.S. show on October 12th last I picked up for £1, an attractive little publication entitled *Some Moths and Butterflies and Their Eggs* (1907), with 60 photographs from nature by A. E. Tonge, F. E. S., an acknowledged authority on the subject. This is no.15 of a series called "Gowans's Nature Books", published by Gowans & Gray. According to an advertisement, up to that time the only other on entomology in the series was no.4: *Butterflies and Moths at Home* (1905), with 60 photographs from nature by A. Forrester, many of larvae. This I also possess but it is less interesting. – J.M. CHALMERS-HUNT.

SCYDMAENUS RUFUS MÜLL. & KUNZE (COL.): AN ECOLOGICAL NOTE. – My friend Prof. J. A. Owen, in his interesting note on this usually rare beetle (*antea*: 78-9) draws attention to its two types of habitat and suggests that, that of manure heaps, etc., may have been relatively lately acquired, compared with the better-known one (rotten wood and under bark) – on the basis of lack of early records from the former type. I would agree that this is probably the case, but on the other hand it cannot be a really recent phenomenon because as long ago as 1906 (*Ent. mon. Mag.* **42**: 138) E. A. Butler, who had taken the second British specimen in 1882, discovered a colony of the beetle in a manure heap at Hendon, Middlesex – remarking that the habitat was 'somewhat unusual'. As he further mentions, H. Donisthorpe had found the species in moderate numbers in woodstack refuse near Shirley, Surrey (1894, *Ibid.* **30**: 136), where also 'a fine series' was procured on a later occasion (p.276). This last biotope is of interest in forming a sort of connecting-link between the other two. I have met with *S. rufus*

only in rotten beech at Mickleham, Surrey, in 1933-4 (a small colony), and very sporadically under bark of oak, beech, and (once) elm in the Windsor Forest area. – A. A. ALLEN.

TINEOLA BISSELLIELLA (HUM.) (THE COMMON CLOTHES MOTH) IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: Old records suggest that this pest species was not uncommon in the East Midlands. Carr (*The Invertebrate Fauna of Nottinghamshire* 1916) gives several localities. Hayward recorded it from Repton in Derbyshire as sometimes common in houses 1916-19 (Hume : *The Lepidoptera of Derbyshire* (1962) unpublished manuscript) and there are old records from Leicestershire and south Yorkshire. However, there are remarkably few post-1920 records. The only ones I can find for these four counties are: Clay Cross, Derbys. 3 specimens between 1958 and 1959 (Hulme *op. cit.*) and Melton Mowbray, Leics., an infestation in a textile manufacturing plant, 1982, confirmed by the late Don Hall-Smith (Anona Finch *pers. comm.*). I was therefore most pleased when a fellow member of the Common Room complained that his flat was infested with moths and subsequently brought to the breakfast table an example of this species. A thorough search of the flat produced a total of 14 specimens, several freshly emerged, although we were unable to find signs of larvae. The two most likely theses on the origin of this infestation are either that my colleague spends a significant amount of time working in the roof of Lincoln Cathedral, which may provide a good "wild" habitat for the species, or that the University is inhabited by a large transient population of students and conference delegates, some of whom are of most unsavoury habit and may themselves be infested. MARK STERLING, Cripps Hall Senior Common Room, University Park, Nottingham.

EUZOPHERA BIGELLA (ZELL.) AND EUCHROMIUS OCELLEA (HAW.) (LEP.: PYRALIDAE) IN YORKSHIRE. – Towards the end of 1985 Richard Beaumont passed on to me a considerable number of 'microlepidoptera' for identification which he had taken in the Huddersfield area during that year. Included were two species which, besides providing the first Yorkshire records, are of more general interest. A specimen of *Euzophera bigella* (Zell.) was reared on 16th August from one of three larvae feeding in a peach purchased in Huddersfield town centre. There had been no external sign of the larvae which were feeding near the kernel. On 16th October a male *Euchromius ocellea* (Haw.) was taken in an m.v. light trap at Richard's home at Netherton, Huddersfield. H. E. BEAUMONT, 7 Brampton Road, West Melton, Rotherham, South Yorks., S63 6AN.